

Note to Teachers about *Next Generation Science Standards, Constructing Explanations*
6th–8th Grade

This student guide is designed so that students can share their ideas about the causes of what they observe at the exhibits. Their explanations will be based on their observations when using the exhibit, as well as their previous experiences and scientific knowledge of the phenomena.

At the exhibits, the students will:

- ask questions, try things out, and make observations.
- construct an explanation for what's going on.
- identify which of their observations can be used as evidence to support their explanation.

The suggested exhibits relate to science and engineering content areas that are covered in either the *Next Generation Science Standards* or the *California State Science Standards* for 6th–8th Grade.

As a part of the guide, the students will record their exhibit experience on a smartphone. This gives you the opportunity to follow up in the classroom and continue to help the students build on their understanding through additional experiments or scientific readings.

For help in planning follow-up activities, see our [Field Trip Resources: After Your Visit](#) page for online activity resources.

This guide highlights one of the science and engineering practices from the *Next Generation Science Standards*. However, at the exhibits the students will often use more than more practice to explore. To learn more about the other practices visit www.nextgenscience.org.